



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

Subj: NAVY MARINE CORPS PORTAL POLICY GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM
NUMBER 1

The Department of the Navy (DON) is rapidly deploying significant information management capabilities that will provide substantial enhancements to the daily operations and quality of the workforce of the Navy-Marine Corps team. Knowledge sharing, access, interoperability and security will be significantly enhanced through the implementation of the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) and fleet forces are being equipped with the most advanced Command, Control, Communications, and Computer (C4) capabilities through the Information Technology for the 21st Century (IT21) program. Network infrastructures in overseas locations are being enhanced by the Navy Base Level Information Infrastructure (BLII) program, and the fielding of a Marine Corps digital backbone to support the Marine Corps Operating Forces. These infrastructure programs will provide the foundation for seamless access to information across DON. As this integrated environment is established, it will provide every Sailor, Marine and civilian in the Department with the hardware and basic tools necessary to efficiently access and effectively use our information and knowledge assets.

In order to realize the benefits of our significant information technology infrastructure investment, a framework for organizing, managing and accessing department information must be established. This framework will be a single integrated enterprise portal structure for use throughout DON.

Portals are web-based, user-customized, network accessible Information Technology systems that provide a single point of access to multiple systems and information resources. The Navy Marine Corps Portal will be one component of several to satisfy the information management infrastructure requirement within DON. Other components will likely include NMCI, IT-21 and BLII, other initiatives (Enterprise IT Architecture, Data Management & Interoperability), and modification to functional business processes and Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures.

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The NMCP will be a single integrated enterprise portal structure that promotes a knowledge-centric environment, which will:

- a. Limit duplicative investments in portal technology within DON
- b. Improve efficiency and effectiveness in portal usage through reduction in investments, promotion of common best practices and facilitation of authoritative data bases
- c. Promote DON-wide process engineering
- d. Support functional and organizational collaboration across the DON.

The DON is committed to capitalizing on its new integrated infrastructure by the deployment of the NMCP across the DON. The NMCP will provide improved access to applications and will enable collaboration across the DON. The NMCP will be the access portal for sharing DON information with other DoD Components, federal agencies, and coalition forces across their Enterprise Portals/Information Systems.

As we embark on this effort, it will be imperative that we focus on incorporating evolving technologies while, at the same time, providing continuity of operations. Therefore, the NMCP technical architecture must be flexible, conform to commercially accepted "web service" standards, and be consistent with both commercial and DON standards, in order to ensure interoperability and security. The use of Extensible Markup Language (XML) based "web service" standards must comply with the "DON Chief Information Officer (CIO) XML Developers Guide." We must also continue to seek the best solutions from across the Department of the Navy and not stifle innovation. Lessons learned and user requirements from ongoing portal development efforts will be incorporated into the NMCP development. Our end objective will be a single NMCP which will provide shared information to the entire Department and other potential users yet, contain sufficient flexibility to be customized by commands, functional communities, and individual users.

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This is the first in a series of guidance memoranda, which will issue NMCP policy and standards. The following are the fundamental operating principles.

The NMCP shall:

a. Be capable of integrating and viewing data from shared sources and accessing the data or applications using the DON Chief Information Officer (CIO) specified commercial standards for web services. Additional standards to ensure interoperability will be kept to a minimum. Using these standards the NMCP will ensure interoperability with other Military Department and DoD portals. The DON CIO shall ensure that test procedures and criteria are established to ensure interoperability during NMCP development.

b. Provide access to Constituent (Subordinate) Portals.

(1) Web services delivered through Constituent Portals must be registered in the NMCP Service Registries. When accessed through the NMCP, these web services will incorporate the NMCP "common look and feel".

(2) Local, command level content pages within the Constituent Portals will be accessed through the NMCP.

(3) Applications that cannot be decomposed into web services will be accessed through the Constituent Portals using the NMCP single sign-on.

(4) Ultimately, access to Constituent Portals will occur only through the NMCP. This will happen after NMCP is fully developed and the Constituent Portals have had a reasonable time to integrate into NMCP.

(5) Further development of Constituent Portals must incorporate NMCP integration and architecture into their system design.

(6) "Single sign-on" authorization from the NMCP will be used for the Constituent Portal access.

c. Provide single point access with "single sign-on" authorizations to all web services, applications and

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authoritative data sources. "Single sign-on" will use the Department of Defense Public Key Infrastructure on the Common Access Card (CAC) as the enabling mechanism.

d. Employ a modular, standards based, technical architecture with non-proprietary implementation designed to rapidly respond to technology change.

e. Once fully developed and implemented, be the portal for all Navy and Marine Corps commands, and will also serve as the access through which all Navy and Marine Corps Commands will access information for mission accomplishment.

f. Be a component of the DON information management structure along with the planned and existing NMCI, IT21 and BLII network infrastructure and architecture.

The DON Information Leadership Council acting in conjunction with Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN(RD&A)) and other appropriate authorities will, in the near future, coordinate the nomination of the NMCP Program Manager. Designation of the NMCP Program Manager and the NMCP Portal Manager and any necessary realignment of resources must be accomplished during Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 to begin to achieve the efficiencies associated with an integrated, DON-wide portal structure. In the interim, all Navy and Marine Corps commands should ensure that on-going or planned initiatives conform to the above operating principles for the enterprise portal structure.

Additionally, the DON CIO shall:

a. Identify a common set of commercial standards for web services and portal integration. This will constitute the NMCP Portal technical architecture.

b. Initiate the development of a common set of taxonomies to be implemented across the NMCP. Taxonomy development will include input from all major claimants to ensure all relative taxonomy profiles for operational and administrative requirements are included. This will constitute the NMCP Portal operational architecture.

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It is imperative that we embark on this path toward universal interoperability designed to share knowledge and functionality. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Gretchen Schlag, (703) 602-6729, schlag.gretchen@hq.navy.mil.

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Secretary of the Navy
Acting

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